Infrastructure requirements in Eleventh Plan

532. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether physical infrastructure requirements in the Eleventh Plan period are estimated to exceed $ 340 bn.;

(b) how much of this has been converted into concrete projects; and

(c) how many of these are likely to be projects by the Private Sector or with Private Sector participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Eleventh Five Year Plan is under formulation. A preliminary macro level exercise has been done by the Planning Commission to estimate the requirement of investment for physical infrastructure during the plan period. The estimates have not yet been finalized.

(b) and (c) Since Eleventh Five Year Plan period has just started and the Plan is under formulation, it is too early to quantify the concrete projects implemented with or without private sector participation.

Decline in poverty

533. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of poor Indians declined by 4.3 per cent in the five years from March 2000, but there are still 24 crore people living in acute want in an economy that has grown at nearly 8 per cent over the period;

(b) whether the National Sample Survey report also reveals that the decline in poverty was comparatively much steep in rural areas where the percentage of people living below poverty line fell to 21.8 per cent in 2004-05 from 27.1 per cent; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take for removing the poverty in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakadwala Committee). Based on this, the poverty ratio (*i.e.*, the percentage of people living below the poverty line) has been estimated for the years 1999-2000 and 2004-05 using the NSS consumer expenditure data of the 55th and 61st Rounds respectively. The poverty ratio in 1999-2000 is estimated as 26.1 per cent for the country as a whole, *i.e.*, rural and urban areas taken together. The corresponding poverty ratio in 2004-05, based on MRP consumption distribution (Mixed Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for five non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses are collected from 365-day recall period and the consumption data for the remaining items are collected from 30-day recall period), is estimated as 21.8 per cent. Therefore, the poverty ratio declined by 4.3 percentage points between 1999-2000 and